



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,935	11/30/2000	Stephane Bouet	017.39361X00	2892

20457 7590 06/19/2003

ANTONELLI TERRY STOUT AND KRAUS
SUITE 1800
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
ARLINGTON, VA 22209

EXAMINER

LE, DAVID Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3621

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/725,935

Applicant(s)

BOUET ET AL.

Examiner

David Q Le

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3621

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Note

1. Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record in the body of this Action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is requested from the Applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Status of Claims

2. **Claims 2 and 7** are cancelled as requested in Amendment filed 31 March 2003
Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 15, 16, and 19 are amended per the same Amendment.
Claims 20-31 are added per the same Amendment.
Claims 1, 3-6, 8-31 remain pending.

Drawings

3. Formal drawings (Fig 1-8) were received on 31 March 2003. These drawings will be forwarded to Draftsperson for review.

Response to Request for Reconsideration

4. The request for consideration filed on 31 March 2003 under 37 CFR § 1.111 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the references cited in First Office Action.

Art Unit: 3621

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds for rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1, 3, 6-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either **Martineau** or **Ginter et al.**, US Patents 5,915,226 and 5,892,900, respectively.

As per **claim 1**:

Both Martineau and Ginter disclose

A method of distributing electronic content (Martineau: Abstract; Figs 1-3, associated description; Col 4, lines 17-38. Ginter: Abstract; Figs 1-2A, 7, 71, associated description; Col 40, line 62 – Col 42, line 3: "...support smart cards..") between first and second terminal devices, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing the-tailoring information in a memory module separate from and releasably attachable to at least the second terminal device (Martineau: Fig 1, associated text; Ginter: C41, L1: "smart cards can dock with an established terminal"), the tailoring information defining what electronic content is able to be transferred, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred,

Art Unit: 3621

and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the second terminal device to a further terminal device;

(b) attaching the memory module to the second terminal device (see above citations);

(c) while the memory module is attached to the second terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the memory module into the second terminal device (Martineau: C4, L17-38; Ginter: C41, L5-7: "the VDE card and the terminal can securely exchange information relating to a transaction);

(d) comparing the tailoring information in the second terminal device with tailoring information included with the content (see above citations); and

(e) if the tailoring information in the second terminal device compares favorably with the tailoring information included with the content, transferring the defined electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device according to the tailoring information (see above citations).

Neither reference specifically recites the term "tailoring information". However Ginter clearly teaches (see all above citations) that control and access codes may be stored on the smart card defining what electronic content may be transferred: what content can be transferred, if it can be further transferred to a third party, if it can be copied, edited, or have its rules of control and access changed prior to further transfer; when the content can be transferred, the period of time during the content may be accessed, what payment is due for accessing the content, etc., etc. The control and access code may also include, as appropriate, cryptographic keys and digital signatures, for appropriate authentication, verification, and authorization of both parties to the transaction (see both Martineau and Ginter citations above).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied Ginter's teachings to a wireless system as disclosed by Martineau in order to provide convenient, safe, secure, versatile, and portable means for delivering and distributing electronic content, as recited in claim 1.

As per claim 15:

Both Martineau and Ginter disclose

A system for distributing electronic content, comprising: a wireless connection for transmission of electronic content (see above citations; Martineau: Fig 1, associated description; Ginter: Fig 7, associated description; Col 251, lines 4-6);

an element for transferring selected electronic content over the wireless connection according to predetermined tailoring information defining electronic content eligible to be transferred from the element,

Art Unit: 3621

a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by a first terminal device to a further terminal device (see above citations);

a terminal device for receiving electronic content over the wireless connection (see above citations);

a memory module for storing the tailoring information, the memory module being separate from and releasably attachable to the first terminal device (see above citations);

attaching means for attaching the memory module to the first terminal device (see above citations);

the first terminal device being adapted to read the tailoring information from the memory module and to transmit the tailoring information to the element over the wireless connection (see above citations), and

the element being adapted to transfer electronic content to the first terminal device over the wireless connection according to the tailoring information (see above citations).

Using the same obviousness and motivation analysis as for claim 1, Ginter in view of Martineau disclose all the limitations of claim 15.

As per **claim 16**:

Both Martineau and Ginter (see above citations) disclose

A memory module for use with a terminal device, said memory module comprising:

a storage medium for storing tailoring information relating to specific electronic content that the memory module authorizes to be transferable to the terminal device, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the terminal device to a further terminal device; and an interface for mechanically and electrically coupling the memory module to the terminal device, the memory module being releasably attachable by a user to the terminal device to bring the memory module into mechanical and electrical contact with the terminal device.

Using the same obviousness and motivation analysis as for claim 1, Ginter in view of Martineau disclose all the limitations of claim 16.

As per **claim 3**:

Art Unit: 3621

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Ginter further discloses

...before step (d) the method further comprises the additional step of transmitting the tailoring information from the second terminal device to a third device (Ginter: see above citations; Figs 77-78, associated description) over a radio frequency link (Ginter: Col 251, lines 4-6); and

step (e) comprises transferring the electronic content to the second terminal device over the radio frequency link (see above citations).

As per claim 6:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 3.

Ginter further discloses (Col 2: "Controlling Electronic Content"; Col 2, line 46: "...automatically enforce agreed upon rights and obligations.."). Ginter's system also has the capability to determine if data has been stored within the local memory storage and avoid having such data downloaded (see Ginter citations above).

Therefore Ginter meets all the limitations of claim 6:

automatically transferring new electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device, the new electronic content fulfilling the tailoring information requirements and being determined to not have been transferred to the terminal device earlier.

As per claim 7:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations; Ginter: starting at Col 8: "Electronic Content")

... the tailoring information includes time dependent subscription period information defining a time period within which electronic content may be transferred to the second terminal device.

As per claim 8:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations)

.. the electronic content includes copies of a periodically published item.

Art Unit: 3621

As per claim 9:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations)

... the memory module is an integrated circuit card.

As per claim 10.

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 9.

Martineau further discloses (Martineau: Col 4, lines 17-38)

*..transferring a serial number of the integrated circuit card to the first terminal device;
checking the validity of the integrated circuit card based on the serial number*

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined this authentication method as taught by Martineau into the system and method disclosed by Ginter, in order to provide a secure, portable system for delivering content over a wireless network. Such a system would have included the limitations recited above, as well as:

in response to a determination that the integrated circuit card is valid, transferring the electronic content to the second terminal device.

As per claim 11:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations; Ginter: starting at Col 8: "Electronic Content")

.. the electronic content is electronic goods.

As per claim 12:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 11.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations)

Art Unit: 3621

.. the electronic content is at least one selected from the group consisting of movies, music, games, electronic magazines, periodicals, newspaper, and television news.

As per claim 13:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 11.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations)

.. the electronic content includes a series of movies.

As per claim 14:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 1.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations)

.. the electronic content is in the form of electronic services.

As per claim 17:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 16.

Ginter further discloses

... the memory module is an integrated circuit card (see above Ginter citations).

As per claim 18:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 17.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations; especially Col 41, line 17: "The card can be used as an "electronic wallet" and contain electronic currency as well as credit provided by a clearinghouse.")

...the memory module comprises a storage medium for storing electronic money to be used for payment for the specific electronic content.

Art Unit: 3621

8. Claims 4-5, 19-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter in view of Martineau and further in view of Nokia Mobile Phones Limited (Nokia), International Patent Publication No WO 00/18205.

As per claim 4:

Ginter in view of Martineau discloses all the limitations of claim 3.

Nokia discloses a portable communication method and system comprising a portable communications device capable of establishing a short-range, low power radio frequency (RF) link with a local terminal and causing data to be transmitted between them (Nokia: Abstract; Figs 1-3, associated description; Page 1, lines 1-24).

Therefore it would have also been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied Nokia's short range, low power RF communication method to Ginter's invention, to provide a convenient, economical, yet secure means for delivering digital content over wireless networks to authorized users. Such a method and system would meet all the limitations of claim 4, namely:

A method according to claim 3, wherein the radio frequency link is a short range communication radio frequency link.

As per claim 5:

Ginter in view of Martineau and Nokia discloses all the limitations of claim 4.

Ginter further discloses (see above Ginter citations):

*..sending an inquiry from the second terminal device to the third terminal device;
sending a response to the inquiry from the third terminal device to the second terminal device;
transmitting the tailoring information to the third terminal device, and
transferring the electronic content from the first terminal device to the third terminal according to the tailoring information received from the second terminal device.*

Nokia discloses:

causing the first terminal device to enter the coverage area of the second terminal device (Nokia: Page 1, lines 21-23; Page 2, lines 4-28).

Art Unit: 3621

Therefore it would have also been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied Nokia's short range, low power RF communication method to Ginter's invention, to provide a convenient, economical, yet secure means for delivering digital content over wireless networks to authorized users. Such a method and system would meet all the limitations of claim 5

As per claim 19:

Both Martineau and Ginter (see above citations; Ginter: Col 40, line 62 – Col 42, line 3: "...support smart cards..") disclose

A terminal device comprising:

a storage device for storing tailoring information, the tailoring information defining specific electronic content that the storage device authorizes as being transferable to the terminal device, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the terminal device to a further terminal device;

an interface for mechanically and electrically coupling the storage device to the terminal device, the interface allowing releasable attachment of the storage device by a user to the terminal device to bring the storage device into mechanical and electrical contact with the terminal device;

means for reading the tailoring information from the storage device into the terminal device when the storage device is in mechanical and electrical contact with the terminal device;

Neither Martineau nor Ginter specifically disclose the use of a transceiver.

Nokia discloses a portable communication method and system comprising a portable communications device capable of establishing a short-range, low power radio frequency (RF) link with a local terminal and causing data to be transmitted between them, using transceivers located in each such device (Nokia: Abstract; Figs 1-3, associated description; Page 1, lines 1-24).

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied Nokia's short range, low power RF communication method to either Martineau's or Ginter's inventions, to provide a convenient, economical, yet secure means for delivering digital content over wireless networks to authorized users. Such a method and system would meet all the limitations of claim 19, including comprising:

Art Unit: 3621

a transceiver for transmitting the tailoring information by wireless communication in order to authorize transfer of the specific electronic content to the terminal device.

As per claims 20-22.

Using the obviousness and motivation analyses and the citations already made for claims 1, 15, 16, and 19, Ginter in view of Martineau disclose most of the limitations of claims 20-22:

Nokia discloses a portable communication method and system comprising a portable communications device capable of establishing a short-range, low power radio frequency (RF) link with a local terminal and causing data to be transmitted between them (Nokia: Abstract; Figs 1-3, associated description; Page 1, lines 1-24).

Nokia does not use the term "access point". However Nokia does disclose that a device within their system may be used as a wireless "gateway" for another device to access to a Public Telephone Switching Network (PTSN) (Page 5, lines 13-18, Fig 3). It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have configured any of Nokia's terminals with the proper software and hardware to make them into "access points", so that portable devices may access the network when coming into proximity of such devices.

Therefore it would have also been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied Nokia's short range, low power RF communication method to either Martineau's or Ginter's inventions, to provide a convenient, economical, yet secure means for delivering digital content over wireless networks to authorized users. Such a method and system would meet all the limitations of claims 20-22, namely:

[20] *A method of distributing electronic content between first and second terminal devices, said method comprising the steps of:*

(a) storing tailoring information in a memory module separate from and releasably attachable to the first terminal device and the second terminal device, the tailoring information defining what electronic content is able to be transferred, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred, and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the second terminal device to a further terminal device;

(b) attaching the memory module to the first terminal device;

(c) while the memory module is attached to the first terminal device, reading the tailoring information into the first terminal device;

Art Unit: 3621

(d) transferring electronic content from an access point to the first terminal device according to the tailoring information;

(e) attaching the memory module to the second terminal device;

(f) while the memory module is attached to the second terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the memory module into the second terminal device; and

(g) transferring the electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device according to the tailoring information.

[21] *A method of distributing electronic content between first and second terminal devices, said method comprising the steps of:*

(a) storing tailoring information in a memory module separate from and releasably attachable to the first terminal device, the tailoring information defining what electronic content is able to be transferred, a period of time during which

the defined electronic content is able to be transferred, and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the second terminal device to a further terminal device;

(b) attaching the memory module to the first terminal device;

(c) while the memory module is attached to the first terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the memory module into the first terminal device;

(d) transferring electronic content from an access point to the first terminal device according to the tailoring information; and

(e) transferring the electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device according to the tailoring information.

[22] *A method of distributing electronic content between first and second terminal devices, said method comprising the steps of:*

(a) storing tailoring information in a memory module separate from and releasably attachable to the second terminal device, the tailoring information defining what electronic content is able to be transferred, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred, and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the second terminal device to a further terminal device;

(b) attaching the memory module to the second terminal device;

(c) while the memory module is attached to the second terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the memory module into the second terminal device;

(d) transferring electronic content from an access point to the first terminal device according to the tailoring information; and

Art Unit: 3621

(e) transferring the electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device according to the tailoring information.

As per **claims 23-24**.

Using the obviousness and motivation analyses and the citations already made for claims 1, 15, 16, and 19, Ginter in view of Martineau and Nokia disclose all of the limitations of claims 23-24:

[23]. *A method of distributing electronic content between first and second terminal devices, said method comprising the steps of:*

(a) storing tailoring information in a first memory module separate from and releasably attachable to the first terminal device, the tailoring information defining what electronic content is able to be transferred, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred, and whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the second terminal device to a further terminal device;

(b) attaching the first memory module to the first terminal device;

(c) while the first memory module is attached to the first terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the first memory module into the first terminal device;

(d) storing the tailoring information in a second memory module separate from and releasably attachable to the second terminal device;

(e) attaching the second memory module to the second terminal device; (f) while the second memory module is attached to the second terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the second memory module into the second terminal device;

(g) comparing the tailoring information in the first terminal device with the tailoring information in the second terminal device; and

(h) if the tailoring information in the first terminal device compares favorably with the tailoring information in the second terminal device, transferring the defined electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device according to the tailoring information.

[24]. *A method of distributing electronic content between first and second terminal devices, the terminal devices having an ability to communicate with each other over a wireless short range connection, said method comprising the steps of:*

(a) storing tailoring information in a memory module separate from and releasably attachable to at least the second terminal device, the tailoring information defining what electronic content is able to be transferred, a period of time during which the defined electronic content is able to be transferred, and

Art Unit: 3621

whether the defined electronic content can be transferred by the second terminal device to a further terminal device;

(b) attaching the memory module to the second terminal device;

(c) while the memory module is attached to the second terminal device, reading the tailoring information from the memory module into the second terminal device;

(d) establishing a wireless short-range connection between the first and the second terminal devices;

(e) transferring the defined electronic content from the first terminal device to the second terminal device according to the tailoring information.

As per claim 25.

None of the references mention

The method according to claim 24, wherein step (e) comprises transferring the electronic content in a push-mode.

However, push and pull modes for delivering content are well-known techniques for delivering digital content over a communications network. Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to add this feature to the system, in order to serve targeted content such as news updates or promotional material to authorized users, thus avoiding the need for the users to actively get online and search for content themselves. Such a system would meet all the limitations of claim 25.

As per claim 26.

Ginter in view of Martineau and Nokia disclose all the limitations of claim 24.

Nokia (Page 1) discloses the Bluetooth wireless protocol as a popular wireless protocol.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to add this feature to the system, in order to provide a versatile, well supported wireless transport protocol, which can then be shared between many different devices and carriers. Such a system would meet the further limitation of claim 26:

the wireless short range connection is a Bluetooth connection.

As per **claim 27**.

Ginter in view of Martineau and Nokia disclose all the limitations of claim 24.

Nokia further discloses

detecting the second terminal device (Page 5, L25-28).

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to add this feature to the system, in order to cause an automatic link when two wireless devices come close together, therefore negating the need for the user to actively seek out and establish a connection on his/her own. .

As per **claims 28-31**.

Using the same obviousness and motivation analysis as for claims 1, 15, 16, 19-27, Ginter in view of Martineau and Nokia further disclose all the limitations of these claims (see all above citations).

[28] *The method according to claim 27, wherein detecting the second terminal device includes transmitting an inquiry over the wireless short range connection.*

[29]. *The method according to claim 28, wherein detecting the second terminal device further includes receiving a response to the inquiry from the second terminal device.*

[30]. *The method according to claim 24, wherein the first terminal device is an access point.*

[31]. *The method according to claim 24, further comprising transferring the electronic content from the second terminal device to a further terminal device.*

Art Unit: 3621

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Q Le whose telephone number is 703-305-4567. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:30pm Mo-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-8494 for regular communications and 703-746-8494 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

DQL
June 16, 2003


JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600